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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

Feb. 18, 2008

Crites Chosen as Department February Employee of the Month

Amber Crites has been selected as the Missouri Department of Corrections Employee of the Month for February 2009. Crites is employed as a Probation and Parole Officer II at District 4 Probation and Parole Office in Kansas City. Crites is being recognized for going above and beyond her normal working duties.

In a letter to Crites, Missouri Department of Corrections Director George Lombardi wrote, "You supervise a specialized caseload of domestic violence cases in District 4 and you have established strict guidelines for holding your clients accountable for their behaviors, including any recommended treatment. You check state and municipal court dockets to keep close track of active clients. To further aid in the tracking of offenders, you lead the district in the coordination and monitoring of a pilot project using the Global Positioning System. To keep abreast of the latest issues in the area of domestic violence, you are actively involved with the Safe Family Coalition, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Batterer's Intervention Program, court advocates, prosecutors, law enforcement, shelters, etc. Your close association with these agencies also assists in your ability to establish a working relationship between the community and Probation and Parole. You meet with victims of domestic violence to assist them with safe shelter, contact information for filing protection orders, treatment, etc. You set aside time each week to sit in on group sessions with treatment providers to monitor the accuracy of information provided by offenders regarding their domestic violence incident. You were chosen by the Western Region Field Service Administrator to attend a specialized, four-day training in Minnesota on the 'Duluth Model' approach to supervising domestic violence cases. You were one of only three officers in the State selected to receive this training. Through networking with officers from other states, the three of you developed a plan for reinventing supervision strategies for domestic violence offenders in Missouri. This plan was presented to Scott Johnston and the PPA team, where it was well received. Recently you were selected to represent the region on a statewide domestic violence committee, whose purpose will be to review supervision practices with the State. In addition to all that you do with domestic violence cases, you serve as a facilitator of Pathways to Change, assist in the planning of office morale activities, and aid your fellow officers in any way you can. Your ability to accept a diversity of job assignments and perform them at a high level benefits Probation and Parole, District 4, and the Department as a whole."

Crites has been employed with the Department of Corrections for six years and lives in Lenexa, Kansas.

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